



# DIOCESAN PRESS SERVICE

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## CANON CASSON TO CHAIR EPISCOPAL URBAN CAUCUS

DETROIT -- The Rev. Lloyd Casson, president of the Church and Society Conference, was elected chairman of the new Episcopal Urban Caucus (EUC) at an April 10 meeting of the group's governing board here.

At the same meeting, board members established an eight-member executive committee, gave tentative approval to a draft budget of \$250,000, and moved toward implementation of EUC action strategies at the local level.

"The Caucus has the responsibility to move the Church into involvement with and action for the poor in cities large and small across the nation," said Casson, who also serves as Canon Missioner of the Washington (D. C.) Cathedral and assistant to Bishop John T. Walker for community and ecumenical affairs.

"Education is one of the EUC's biggest problems -- helping the Church understand the nature of the urban crisis and helping Church members understand that we are all part of that crisis," Casson continued. "But our principal goal is to make explicit how the Church can and should respond -- to move the Church to action."

The organizational structure adopted by the EUC board calls for an executive committee -- composed of four officers and four board members -- which will supervise and support the activities of seven national task force groups. Four task forces are charged with implementing action strategies agreed upon by delegates to the EUC Assembly held Feb. 13-16 at Indianapolis, while the remaining three groups will deal with internal management.

In addition to Casson, board members elected to the executive committee include Lydia Lopez of Los Angeles, vice chairman; Sr. Arlen Margaret of Central New York, secretary; Bishop Richard Trelease of the Rio Grande, treasurer; and members-at-large Julio Torres of Massachusetts, Mattie Hopkins of Chicago, George Regas of Los Angeles, and Deborah Hines of Tennessee.

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The action task forces and their conveners include Economic Justice (Lou Schoen of Minnesota), Parish Revitalization (Elyse Bradt of Pennsylvania), Energy (Deborah Hines) and Arms Race (George Regas). A communications task force will be headed by Sr. Arlen Margaret.

"This group is truly struggling with the concept of being a working board," commented board member Bill Bolling, director of street ministry for St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Atlanta, following the meeting. "We don't want the Caucus to be just another group identifying problems. The problems have already been identified. What we need now is coordinated action.

"The EUC is going to have to develop in each diocese," Bolling continued. "When it comes right down to it, all the real work has to be done at the local level. The board can nourish those local groups, and give them the benefit of a national perspective."

The next meeting of the EUC governing board -- which is open to the public -- will be held May 29 at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

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